

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES**

25 May 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: 3 WG/CV

11530 Q Street, Suite 200
Elmendorf AFB AK 99506-2850

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting, 7 Apr 99, Elmendorf
Air Force Base (EAFB), Alaska

1. The RAB met on 7 Apr 99 in Denali Rooms II and III of the Regal Alaskan Hotel at 1900. Attached are copies of the briefing slides (attachment 1). The RAB meeting minutes will be available for public review in the EAFB information repositories. Items discussed in the meeting or needing special mention are summarized.

2. Members in Attendance:

Colonel Stephen D. Brown, Chairman, Environmental Protection Committee, EAFB
Mr. Thomas Brudnicki, Public Health, Community Co-Chair
Ms. Kristi Bischofberger, Municipality of Anchorage
Mr. William Dixon, Native Community
Mr. Kevin Gardner, U.S. Army, Fort Richardson
Mr. Louis Howard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Mr. Dennis Mattson, Deputy Base Civil Engineer, EAFB

3. Members Not in Attendance:

Mr. Tim Brincefield, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Ms. Colleen Brust, Elmendorf Community
Mr. Michael Cravens, Eagle River Community
Ms. Therese Deardorff, Anchorage Community
Mr. R.J. Gryder, Environmental Community, Alternate Community Co-Chair
Mr. Blake Johnson, Environmental Community
MSgt Newt Pinson, Elmendorf Community
Ms. Diana Rigg, Eagle River Community
Ms. Judith Root, Anchorage Community
Mr. Dan Spillane, Business Community

4. Other Meeting Attendees:

Maj Al Weglinski, Spill Team Coordinator, EAFB
Mr. Keith Barnack, Bioenvironmental Engineer, EAFB
Ms. Donna Baumler, Environmental Protection Assistant, EAFB
Mr. Dave Bennett, Air/Water Quality Program Manager, EAFB
Mr. William Hanson, Chief, Environmental Flight, EAFB
Mr. James Klasen, Office of the Judge Advocate, 11th Air Force
Mr. Claude Mayer, Restoration Project Manager, EAFB
Mr. Jim Miller, Acting Chief, Environmental Quality, EAFB
Ms. Cheryl Paige, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, EAFB
Ms. Valerie Payne, Remedial Project Manager, EAFB
Mr. Allen Richmond, Chief, Conservation & Environmental Planning, EAFB
Ms. Irina Shupilova, Community Member
Mr. Steve Teller, Fluor Daniel/GTI
Ms. Doris Thomas, Community Relations Coordinator, 3rd Wing Public Affairs
Mr. Larry Underbakke, Remedial Project Manager, EAFB
Mr. Joe Williamson, Chief, Environmental Restoration, EAFB

5. Poster Stations. RAB and public members reviewed poster stations representing RAB agenda items. Six displays were set up: Environmental Investment (ENVVEST), FY00 Environmental budgets, bioventing systems, groundwater monitoring, World War II historic resource management, and proposed Alaska Railroad realignment. At these displays, Mr. Dave Bennett, Mr. Claude Mayer, Ms. Valerie Payne, Mr. Allen Richmond, and Mr. Joe Williamson provided information and answered questions.

6. Welcome to RAB members. Col Stephen Brown, Installation Co-Chair, welcomed all RAB members and attendees. Ms. Doris Thomas reviewed the agenda.

7. Old Business:

a. Review of 4 Nov 98 RAB Meeting Minutes. The minutes of the 4 Nov 98 RAB meeting were reviewed with no comments. These minutes were approved by the RAB members as written. (Closed)

b. Bioventing Overview. Mr. Mayer gave an overview of the bioventing systems that are in operation on Elmendorf AFB. Bioventing systems were selected to cleanup soils contaminated with fuel and fuel-related products such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes. These systems will begin to be shut down in 1999 resulting in a 6-year average run time. The cost of operation last year was approximately \$12,400 per site.

c. Ship Creek - Elmendorf Hatchery. Mr. Richmond gave an overview of the enforcement activities that took place last year along Ship Creek. Elmendorf AFB is responsible for enforcing the regulations on the golf course side of Ship Creek. Military Conservation Agents (MCAs) conducted 45 patrol checks upstream of Reeve Boulevard last summer. Six incidents were reported with five citations issued for Fishing in Closed Waters. The MCAs gave two additional

charges for Possession of a Controlled Substance and three additional citations for trespassing were given by the Anchorage Police Department. These charges consisted of fines of \$100 and loss of fishing privileges for a year. MCAs go through four weeks of training with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

RAB members discussed several issues about the Elmendorf Hatchery including:

(1) Why the fish ladder is not kept open versus using the hatchery. In response, Mr. Richmond stated that the fish ladder is not kept open because of the introduction of new pathogens from outside areas. Mr. Dixon encouraged the use of water from Eklutna so water levels in Ship Creek could be kept high enough to allow salmon to migrate up to Arctic Valley.

d. Pollution Prevention Update. Ms. Cheryl Paige gave the RAB an update on the solid waste reduction program Elmendorf has established. Elmendorf has achieved a 30 percent reduction from 1998 baseline, saving the base \$253.0K. Elmendorf recovers paper products, metals, and glass; the only way to meet the 50 percent reduction goal is to implement a full service compost program that will include unrecyclable mixed paper, food waste, wood, glass, tires and horse manure. The savings to the base are estimated at \$172,000 per year.

e. ENVVEST Update. Mr. Dave Bennett gave an update on the ENVVEST proposal, which proposes a strategy that will result in measurable air pollutant reductions and a proposed alternative fuel vehicle program for the base fleet. This project would save \$1.5M in administrative costs, which will be used for alternative vehicle purchases and reductions in air emissions. Public meetings were held on 8 and 9 Mar 99. The final project agreement is expected to be published in the Federal Register in late May 99. The compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station is completely designed.

RAB members discussed several issues about the ENVVEST proposal including:

(1) How extensive is the vehicle conversion? Mr. Bennett responded that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had to approve all vehicle conversions and that the most expensive conversion could be approximately \$30.0K, but some are as inexpensive as \$1.0K. Conversions for light-duty trucks are approximately \$6.0K and diesel buses are up to \$20.0K. Receiving EPA certification may be the biggest hurdle. Fuel-injected vehicles are not too difficult to convert, although carburetor systems are more difficult.

(2) Are electric vehicles an option in Alaska? Mr. Hanson explained that a lead-acid battery only has a five percent efficiency in cold weather. Col Brown suggested that electric cars be looked at as an alternative, at least, for the summer months. Mr. Hanson said that somewhat defeats the purpose of the conversion of vehicles, because the main purpose is to reduce the carbon monoxide in Anchorage in the winter months. Mr. Bennett added that the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) will be looking at alternative initiatives such as emission reductions for lawn mowers and painting operations.

(3) Is there an increase in life of motor using CNG? There is a slight increase in the efficiency of the motor, but not necessarily an increase to its life.

f. Fuel Spill Update. Mr. Bennett gave an update on where we are in the cleaning up of three fuel spills that occurred in 1997.

8. New Business:

a. Extension of Terms/Approval of New Member. The RAB members voted to approve two-year term extensions for Mr. Blake Johnson, Mr. Kevin Gardner, and Mr. Thomas Brudnicki, community co-chair, and also voted to accept Mr. George Smith, Mt View Community Council, for a two-year term. The following terms will be expiring in Nov 99: Ms. Kristi Bischofberger, Ms. Colleen Brust, Mr. Michael Cravens, Ms. Therese Deardorff, Mr. William Dixson, Mr. R.J. Gryder, Ms. Diana Rigg, and Ms. Judith Root. A suggestion was made that each member whose term expires in Nov 99, send a letter of intent to extend their term. This letter can be sent to Ms. Doris Thomas, 3 WG/PA.

b. Summer Field Trip. Ms. Thomas asked where the RAB members wanted to go on this summer's field trip. Some suggestions included: ST37 Engineered Wetland, SD15 High-Vacuum Extraction System, Recycling Center, ST41 - Four-Million Gallon Hill, and the West Ramp Hydrant Oil/Water Separator.

c. Railroad Realignment. Mr. Richmond explained the purpose of realigning the Alaska Railroad tracks on Elmendorf AFB property and what effects it may have on Elmendorf. The Alaska Railroad would like to straighten the tracks on Elmendorf to decrease derailments of trains and increase the train speeds to 50-60 mph. The current tracks that curve on Elmendorf AFB property cut train speed down to 20 mph. The new tracks would cross Operable Unit 1 where there are restoration concerns, which include not disturbing landfill caps. The environmental assessment is expected to be final in Aug 99.

d. ST41 Closure. Mr. Underbakke explained that ST41, which was once thought to be the worst contaminated site in Alaska, is now well on its way to being cleaned up. All closure requirements stated in the Operable Unit 2 Record of Decision for the groundwater treatment system at ST41 have been met. A project to study the site to make sure the site is well on its way to clean up will be conducted this summer. Closeout of the groundwater treatment system is scheduled for the summer of FY99. The groundwater will continue to clean it self up by monitored natural attenuation. The groundwater will be monitored until maximum contaminant levels have been met in approximately 2020.

e. Groundwater Monitoring Summary. Ms. Payne explained the groundwater monitoring program. Conclusions show that 1) benzene migration is following the original modeling predictions, 2) new fuel spills and source areas may impact the time required for the natural attenuation of benzene, and 3) benzene and trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations at Operable Unit 5 agree with the model also.

f. Future Agenda Items.

(1) History of Elmendorf (Poster Display Board)

(2) 3rd Wing Mission

9. The RAB meeting was adjourned at 2035. The RAB summer field trip will be in July or August, the exact date to be determined later.

//SIGNED//

DONNA BAUMLER, GS-07
Recorder

Approved as written.

//SIGNED//

STEPHEN D. BROWN, Colonel, USAF
RAB Installation Co-Chairman

//SIGNED//

THOMAS BRUDNICKI
RAB Community Co-Chairman

Attachment:
Briefing Slides

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ PACAF/CEV/CEVR

3 WG/CV/PA/JA

3 AMDS/SGPB

3 CONS/LGCC

3 CES/CE/CEV/CEVP/CEVQ/CEVR

15 CES/CEVR

36 CES/CEVR

354 CES/CEVR

611 CES/CEVR

Ms. Kristi Bischofberger, Municipality of Anchorage

Mr. Tim Brincefield, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Thomas Brudnicki, Public Health, Community Co-Chairman

Ms. Colleen Brust, Elmendorf Community

Mr. Michael Cravens, Eagle River Community

Ms. Therese Deardorff, Anchorage Community

Mr. William Dixon, Native Community

Mr. Kevin Gardner, U.S. Army, Fort Richardson

Mr. R.J. Gryder, Environmental Community

Mr. Louis Howard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

Mr. Blake Johnson, Environmental Community

Ms. Diana Rigg, Eagle River Community

Ms. Judith Root, Anchorage Community

Mr. George Smith, Mt View Community Council